

**Jim Doyle**  
Governor

**Roberta Gassman**  
Secretary



**State of Wisconsin**

**Department of Workforce Development**

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## **Doyle Administration Awards \$82,000 to Wausau School District**

### ***Builds on Governor's Initiative to Make Child Care Tax Deductible***

**Wausau** – Department of Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman announced today that the DWD is awarding \$82,053 in Community Child Care Initiative grants to the Wausau School District as part of Governor Jim Doyle's *KidsFirst* Initiative.

"The quality of care and learning opportunities that our kids receive at an early age is directly related to their development and ability to do well in school," Secretary Gassman said in announcing the grant. "This investment in our children and families through stronger child care programs will last a lifetime."

The funding will allow the Wausau School District to enhance the quality and supply of child care for families in the district. The District will fund Hmong and Hispanic bilingual child care certification training and aide positions, will provide technical assistance and staff development for local child care providers, and will increase literacy and language development programming for 15 licensed and certified child care providers in the area.

In 2006, DWD will award a total of \$2.5 million statewide in Community Child Care Initiative grants to counties, tribes, municipalities, public school districts, and Wisconsin Technical College districts. The grants will be used to improve the quality, supply and accessibility of child care throughout Wisconsin. Recipients must match the grant funds which may be towards a variety of activities to improve child care quality, such as:

- Helping parents make informed choices about selecting child care;
- Educating the general public;
- Increasing opportunities for children with disabilities in child care settings;
- Local collaborative planning to improve early child care and education services;
- Develop a community plan for meeting child care needs related to four-year-old kindergarten for working families; or
- Offering child care for children documented to be receiving or in need of protective services.

"We are committed to the children and families in our state – from promoting and improving early childhood education, to giving our parents a tax break on paying for child care," said Secretary Roberta Gassman, Department of Workforce Development.

Governor Doyle has proposed a new tax deduction that will allow parents to deduct up to \$3,000 for child care expenses for one child, and up to \$6,000 for two or more children. This new tax benefit will save nearly \$400 for a family with two children in child care. According to the National Association of Child Care Research and Referrals Agency, there are 253,335 children in Wisconsin under the age of six that have either both parents working or are from a single parent household where the parent works.

For more information regarding DWD's child care programs, see DWD's website at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dws/programs/childcare/grants/default.htm> and DWD's home page at <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov>.

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